



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

**OCT 08 2023**

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1536 without my signature.

This bill would expand eligibility for the Cash Assistance Program for Aged, Blind, and Disabled Legal Immigrants (CAPI) program to include all eligible immigrants, regardless of their legal immigration status.

While I appreciate the author's goal to expand CAPI eligibility regardless of immigration status, enacting this policy without providing funding would not be prudent nor would it meet its intended purpose. My Administration has taken significant steps to support the undocumented community, including the recent expansion of eligibility for full-scope Medi-Cal, regardless of immigration status. This year, the 2023 Budget Act includes \$40 million to begin automation and outreach efforts to expand the California Food Assistance Program to income-eligible individuals aged 55 years or older, regardless of their immigration status.

This bill would result in significant costs of over \$100 million General Fund annually, because CAPI is a state-only program. These costs must be considered alongside other budgetary priorities as part of the annual budget process. In partnership with the Legislature, we enacted a budget that closed a shortfall of more than \$30 billion through balanced solutions that avoided deep program cuts and protected education, health care, climate, public safety, and social service programs that are relied on by millions of Californians. This year, however, the Legislature sent me bills outside of this budget process that, if all enacted, would add nearly \$19 billion of unaccounted costs in the budget, of which \$11 billion would be ongoing.



With our state facing continuing economic risk and revenue uncertainty, it is important to remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications, such as this measure.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "Gavin Newsom", is written over the printed name. The signature is fluid and extends across the width of the printed name.